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# Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

PRS-01 IO-04 INR-05 CIAE-00 L-02 SAJ-01 /058 W
---------- 080738
R 211600Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7603
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 14595

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, VT, KS, IT
SUBJECT: ROK FOREIGN MINISTER VISITS ROME

REF: SEOUL 6842

1. FROM OUR LATEST CONVERSATIONS WITH VATICAN'S DESK OFFICER FOR KOREA, IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT VERSION OF FORMIN KIM'S OCT. 12 MEETING WITH CARDINAL SECRETARY OF STATE VILLOT GIVEN TO POLITICAL COUNSELOR BY LEE SANG OCK (REFTEL) IS BASICALLY ACCURATE. ALTHOUGH OUR SOURCE UNAWARE JUST WHAT VILLOT MAY HAVE SAID TO KIM ABOUT ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN MISSIONARIES, IT QUITE NATURAL THAT CARDINAL WOULD HAVE STATED VATICAN'S VIEWS WHICH ARE THAT FOREIGN MISSIONARIES SHOULD ALWAYS KEEP FIRMLY IN MIND THAT THEY ARE GUESTS IN HOST COUNTRY AND THEREFORE SHOULD CONFORM TO BEHAVIOR INCUMBENT ON ANY NON-CITIZEN, WHICH INCLUDES REFRAINING FROM IN-VOLVEMENT IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL AFFAIRS.

2. ON OTHER HAND, SOURCE POINTED OUT THAT VATICAN HAS NO INTEN-TION OF ORDERING OR ATTEMPTING TO COERCE KOREAN HIERARCHY TO REMAIN ALOOF FROM DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. AS PRINCIPLE, VATICAN FROWN ON LOCAL CHURCH INVOLVEMENT IN "POLITICAL ACTIVITIES" SUCH AS PARTISAN MATTERS AND ELECTORAL CAMPAIGNING, BUT IT LEAVES UP TO LOCAL CHURCHMEN DECISION AS TO WHAT ARE "POLITICAL ACTIVITIES".

3. VILLOT DID NOT BRING PRESSURE ON HIS GUEST FOR RELEASE OF BISHOP CHI, BUT TOLD KIM THAT VATICAN HAD FAITH IN INHERENT
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JUSTICE OF KOREAN JUDICIAL PROCESS AND EXPECTED THAT CHI'S CASE

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WOULD BE FAIRLY REVIEWED.

4. WHILE IN ROME, KIM PRESIDED OVER MEETING OF KOREAN AMBASSADORS IN EEC COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO FARNESINA SOURCE WHO MET KIM UPON ARRIVAL IN ROME, PRINCIPAL SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED AT MEETING WERE KOREAN IMAGE IN EEC AREA AND TACTICS TO ENCOURAGE SUPPORT FOR SOUTH KOREAN POSITION IN DEBATE ON KOREAN ISSUE AT UNGA. KIM ALSO CALLED ON UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE GRANELLI IN ABSENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER MORO. KIM PRESSED ITALIANS TO CO-SPONSOR FREINDLY KOREAN RESOLUTION AT UNGA. GRANELLI EXPLAINED TO KIM THAT ITALIANS WOULD SUPPORT BUT NOT RPT NOT CO-SPONSOR RESOLUTION SINCE ITALIANS AT PRESENT TIME PREFER TO CO-SPONSOR ONLY THOSE RESOLUTION AFFECTING AREAS (I.E. EUROPE AND MEDITERRANEAN) WHERE THEY HAVE DIRECT INTERESTS. VOLPE

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